

SECTION XIV. SPECIAL EVENT FACILITY ORDINANCE

[Adopted 2016]

To encourage the preservation of agricultural lands and buildings per RSA 674:17,1(i) as stated by the State of New Hampshire as a purpose in the design of zoning ordinances, special event facilities, as an alternative use of farmland at currently active farms or at inactive farms which retain agricultural buildings and open fields, shall be permitted subject to the following restrictions:

1. Special event facilities shall host events which are regular and/or seasonal in nature, i.e. reasonable expectation of hosting events more than two (2) times per year.
2. Events under this ordinance shall only be allowed in the general residence district and rural/agricultural district.
3. Event site shall be on a property or contiguous properties under the same ownership with a minimum total of twenty (20) acres.
4. Events shall be restricted to commercial use of property for private events/functions, not open to the general public. Permitted types of events would include workshops, retreats, private weddings, family gatherings and similar kinds of activities.
 - a.) A special event shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) attendees in size, including guests and staff supporting the event.
 - b.) Special events numbering from 75 – 125 attendees in size shall be limited to a maximum of 10 events in a calendar year. Special events numbering 25 – 74 attendees in size shall be limited to a maximum of 20 events in a calendar year. Special events with less than 25 attendees shall have no limit.
 - c.) No event shall exceed 12 hours of operation, excluding set-up and break-down.
No event shall commence earlier than 10 a.m. nor extend later than 10 p.m.
5. Any subsequent development of the site for this use shall be consistent with the existing rural agricultural characteristics of the property.
6. All events require off-street parking for all vehicles.
7. Approved facilities and activities must comply with all other applicable statutes, ordinances and regulations.
8. All businesses of this type must be approved by the Planning Board after meeting requirements of Site Plan Review, except that Site Plan approval shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of the Planning Board vote and expire if the applicant does not apply for a new approval prior to the expiration date.
9. For previously approved special event facilities seeking a renewal approval, a record of the events that have been held, including the date, duration and number of attendees, and any complaints that have been received by the applicant or on file with the Police Department, shall be submitted with the permit renewal application.